

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating, via a network, a print market place, in which a market portal gathers information from a service provider and an interactive shop to create a relationship between the service provider and the interactive shop, and the interactive shop offers products and/or services to its customers, the method comprising:

collecting, by the market portal, market information, comprising an identity of service providers and the print services and pricing provided by each of the service providers;

storing, by the market portal, the market information;

obtaining, by the market portal, criteria established by an interactive shop for selecting service providers to provide the print services, wherein the criteria is edited using a selection criteria interface which comprises a listing of a plurality of categories for selection of service providers and possible input; and

selecting, by the market portal, one or more service providers identified using the market information to provide the set of print services based on the criteria and the market information,

wherein the interactive shop offers products and services to its customers via a graphical user interface by which a customer of the interactive shop orders products and services offered by the interactive shop, and

wherein the print services and pricing information is collected and the selection criteria is obtained independent of an order by a customer.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the method further comprising:

forwarding an order for services placed in the interactive shop to at least one of the selected service providers via a market portal.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising:  
transmitting digital data from the interactive shop to the at least one of the selected service providers via another communication channel that excludes the market portal.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
updating the market information to reflect amount, type and price of print services ordered in an interactive shop from a service provider.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
updating the market information to reflect level of satisfaction associated with a service provider.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:  
forwarding an order from the interactive shop to at least one of the selected service providers via a market portal;  
transmitting a status of the order to the market portal; and

rendering payment when the market portal determines that the ordered print services have been provided.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, the step of rendering payment further comprising:

collecting fees from a patron of the interactive shop that placed the order;

and

rendering payment to the one of the selected service providers from the collected fees.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 6 further comprising:

rendering a percentage of the fees collected from the patron as payment to the interactive shop.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 6 further comprising:

rendering a percentage of the fees collected from the patron as payment to the provider providing the market portal.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting service providers is performed in anticipation of the placement of an order for print services.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting service providers is performed in response to the placement of an order for print services.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
establishing a relationship between the interactive shop and a selected service provider guaranteeing the purchase and supply respectively of a certain quantity of a given service; and  
updating the market information to specify the quantity of the given service guaranteed.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12 further comprising:  
updating the quantity to reflect filled orders of the print services.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the market information includes an identity of interactive shops.

15. to 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing computer-executable process steps to create, via a network, a print market place, in which a market portal gathers information from a service provider and an interactive shop

to create a relationship between the service provider and the interactive shop, and the interactive shop offers products and/or services to its customers, the steps comprising:

a collecting step to collect, by the market portal, market information comprising an identity of service providers and the print services and pricing provided by each of the service providers;

storing, by the market portal, the market information;

an obtaining step to obtain, by the market portal, criteria established by an interactive shop for selecting service providers to provide print services, wherein the criteria is edited using a selection criteria interface which comprises a listing of a plurality of categories for selection of service providers and possible input; and

a selecting step to select, by the market portal, one or more service providers identified using the market information to provide the set of print services based on the criteria and the market information,

wherein the interactive shop offers products and services to its customers via a graphical user interface by which a customer of the interactive shop orders products and services offered by the interactive shop, and

wherein the print services and pricing information is collected and the selection criteria is obtained independent of an order by a customer.

25. to 52. (Canceled)